

The *Gull* for October reprints from the Game Breeder some interesting discussion on the question of how the Wood Duck's young leave the nest. The gist of it is that the young leave the nest, and are returned to the nest, on the back of the old bird. The author asserts that he has witnessed the performances.

The International Cat Society (501 Fifth Ave., N. Y.) issues from time to time a mimeographed bulletin which gives information on the harm done by these animals and on the work being done to curb the menace. Up to the present time ten bulletins have been issued.

Several numbers of the *Flicker* have arrived since last noticed. The second number for 1932 contains a halftone reproduction of a *very excellent* photograph of a Great Horned Owl at the nest.

For some years Prof. O. A. Stevens, of the North Dakota Agricultural College, has been issuing in mimeographed form *North Dakota Bird Notes*. This periodical has been issued with considerable regularity for a number of years, and contains a great amount of local ornithology.

It has been announced that the *Letter of Information* of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union is to be discontinued at the end of this year, to be succeeded by a printed 16-page quarterly.

COMMUNICATIONS

RIDGWAY'S BIRDS OF NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA

With regard to an editorial on Mr. Robert Ridgway's great series on the Birds of North and Middle America in the last number of the WILSON BULLETIN (Vol. 44, September, 1932, p. 179) there seems to be some misunderstanding as to the circumstances attending the progress of this publication.

At the time of his death Mr. Ridgway was occupied mainly with work on the synonymy and on the diagnoses for the higher groups for volumes 9 and 10 of this work. Neither of these volumes was completed and we estimate that approximately 50 per cent or less of the work had been finished on them. Due to his failing health Mr. Ridgway did not feel that he could come to Washington to carry out the necessary work to complete the accounts of the various species and subspecies, and it was not practical for him to arrange to do this elsewhere. As a matter of fact Mr. Ridgway wished to give up the task some time before his death and continued only at my earnest solicitation, as it was my desire to have as much of his rich store of knowledge preserved on paper as possible.

The work of completion of these two volumes has been undertaken by Dr. Herbert Friedmann, U. S. National Museum, who follows Mr. Ridgway as curator of birds. While it is intended to complete the work as promptly as possible necessarily some time must elapse before the next volume is ready as there is much to be done upon it.

ALEXANDER WETMORE,
U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.